

Message Text

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APPROVED BY HA:FASIEVERTS
EA/VLC - MR. OWENS
DOD/DIA - MR. TROWBRIDGE (INFO)
EUR/WE:RPPAGANELLI
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 197504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FR, VM

SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY OF LIVING AMERICANS IN VIETNAM

REF: PARIS 24072

1. APPRECIATE REFTEL REPORT ON QUAI OFFICIAL'S OPINION THAT THERE MAY STILL BE AMERICANS SUCH AS DESERTERS IN VIETNAM. SUCH COMMENTS ARE HEARD FAIRLY OFTEN, BUT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE REMAIN UNSUBSTANTIATED. THERE ARE NOW FAIRLY LARGE NUMBERS OF "CAUCASIANS" IN VIETNAM, INCLUDING CITIZENS OF SUCH COUNTRIES AS SWEDEN AND FRANCE, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, NONE OF WHOM HAVE REPORTED ANY "AMERICANS" IN VIETNAM. WE HAVE MAINTAINED EXTENSIVE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM REFUGEES AND OTHER SOURCES, AND HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO SUBSTANTIATE PRESENCE OF
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ANY REMAINING AMERICANS IN VIETNAM (OTHER THAN A SMALL NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE CHILDREN WITH CLAIMS TO US CITIZENSHIP).

2. SUGGEST YOU ADVISE THE QUAI OFFICIAL OF THESE OBSERVATIONS AND ASK THAT HE PROVIDE ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION HE MIGHT HAVE ON POSSIBLE "AMERICANS" IN VIETNAM. VANCE

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